Name Jennifer Blackman Address 19 Hawthorne Drive Unit 124 Phone Number 860-910-8132

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee:

The FRC playgroup I attend with my daughter has been a wonderful program for Caroline and all of the other participants. The daily activities give her a chance to socialize, learn, and develop skills out of the home, helping her become a well-adjusted toddler. The trips: kayaking, sailing with NESS, going to the nature center, the nature center visiting us, weekly books, literary workshops, etc. are great experiences for my husband and I to learn and grow with her while creating a lifetime of memories.

The staff are always very helpful in engaging with the children to determine if they may need extra developmental help too. Between observation and yearly surveys, they discover weak areas and support the parents in helping their children. That is an invaluable resource by itself building up children and creating the strongest foundations possible.

Cutting funding for this program would adversely effect lots of children with parents who want to give their children all the opportunity they can, some without the resources to do it on their own. Please do not take this wonderful child and community building program away from the current and future participants. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Blackman